

## **Baltimore City Sustainability Commission Water Working Group Meeting Report**

**DATE:** Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Harlem Gardens Senior Apartments, 1700 Edmonson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21223.

**SUBJECT:** Water Working Group Community Conversation

### **IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mary Washington	Baltimore City Sustainability Commission
John Ciekot	Baltimore City Sustainability Commission
Clark Howells	City of Baltimore, Reservoir Natural Resources Section
Dan Dillon	Baltimore Ecosystem Study
Fran Flannigan	Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay
Laurie Schwartz	Waterfront Partnership
Sarah Zaleski	Baltimore Office of Sustainability
Umar Farooq	Private Citizen
Regina Minniss	Private Citizen
Michael Gaffney	Friends of Druid Hill Park
Kim Schaefer	Terralogos

### **DISCUSSION:**

Mary Washington opened the meeting by welcoming the attendees and thanking them for their participation with the Baltimore Sustainability Commission, Water Working Group (WWG). The listening group members discussed how the public meetings would be conducted and how the comments from these listening sessions would be incorporated into the drafting of the Sustainability Commission Water Working Group report. The first part of the meeting was a PowerPoint presentation of “The Story of Baltimore’s Water Supply” and was followed by a discussion of the drinking water supply and issues pertaining to the water resources managed by the City of Baltimore. Fran Flannigan presented on the Baltimore Watershed Conference and discussed the Baltimore Watershed Agreement highlighting the goals related to stormwater, community greening, development/redevelopment, public health, and trash.

- **Stormwater Goal:** to achieve the necessary pollutant reductions and hydrological control to meet WQ standards in the City and County streams and tidal waters by 2020.
- **Community Greening Goal:** achieve City and County urban tree canopy and stream buffer goals and maximize vegetated areas as appropriate to improve water quality.
- **Development/ Redevelopment Goal:** ensure that the policies and practices that govern development and redevelopment are protective of existing natural and water resources and meet objectives of the Clean Water Act.
- **Public Health Goal:** ensure that the Harbor, the Back River and the tributary streams meet the “fishable, swimmable” goal of the Clean Water Act by 2020.
- **Trash Goal:** eliminate trash-related water quality impairments by 2020 in the Harbor, Back River and tributary streams as defined by the Clean Water Act.

## **TOPIC ADDRESSED:**

- The WG members wanted to be sure that the Water Working Group would be inclusive in its discussion of water resources considering not only the drinking water supply but also wastewater and stormwater issues.
- Consideration should be given to how water quality impacts recreational uses of Baltimore City's waters. Special emphasis should be given to informing the public about fish consumption advisories and other public health issues related to water. Public safety should be added as a topic for discussion.
- Water consumption is also an issue. The WWG should try to educate the public to change thinking about water use and conservation. Try to find a way to provide incentives for citizens who voluntarily conserve.
- One of the missions of the WWG should be to try and get people excited about water.
- We need to engage the public and get them to work together as a community to conserve our water resources.
- The streams within Baltimore do not behave like natural streams anymore. Urban streams tend to be flashy and due to our built infrastructure are not likely to be restored to a natural condition.
- We need to begin to consider not only our needs but the needs of nature. People in different parts of the world have different views of water and water use. We could learn from their experiences.
- How will the WWG sustainability plan be used? Will the plan be mandatory or used simply as a guide?
- How do we engage the citizenry to implement conservation practices and to recycle? Baltimore City schools do not recycle or teach recycling to students. We need to focus attention on educating our youth so that they can in turn influence the conservation practices of their parents. If the schools were used as a model then we would have multiple points of dissemination.

## **TO DO:**

### **Group:**

- Try to locate a water consumption calculator for Baltimore which can be used to demonstrate how much water can be conserved by the implementation of conservation practices.
- Water is a big issue. How do we get the word out to insure that we get adequate participation from the community? Part of the Sustainability Commission mission is to get input from the community.
- Try and locate a member of the business community to participate with the WWG.
- Locate someone with experience in financing these types of projects so that when we get to the implementation phase we have funding for the program.

### **Mary Washington:**

- Put together the agenda which will be used to draft the committee report.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

- **Water Working Group Meeting**, 6pm - 8pm Thursday, July 10 2008, Location (TBD)
- **Water Working Group Community Conversation**, 6pm - 8pm Thursday, July 17 2008, Pleasant View Gardens, 201 N Aisquith St., Baltimore, MD 21202